



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH • SCHOOL

## COLOGNE, MN

14745 Co. Rd. 153  
Cologne, MN 55322

[www.zion-cologne.org](http://www.zion-cologne.org)

## January 2024

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Pastor  
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Principal

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### Mission Statement

Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne, MN is a branch of Christ's family saved by grace alone, rooted in God's love, and growing in faith through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service as we reach out to others with the good news of Jesus. with the good news of Jesus.

## God Tells Us to Go - and Grow.

**The Days of Christmas** move us from December to January. In our everyday world, people are shifting their lives from celebration to the business of the coming year. In some cases, people are literally moving and changing their lives. That's what our family was doing, back in 1973, when we moved from Stillwater, MN to St. Louis, MO. In the middle of winter, in the midst of Christmas, we were packing up and moving out. It was scary and yet exciting--and it turned out to be a change that blessed us all.

**Travel is a big part of the Christmas family.** Following an edict of Caesar Augustus, Joseph and Mary traveled from Galilee to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. In the middle of the night, shepherds left their sheep in the fields and went to Bethlehem to see the newborn Christ, lying in a manger. After a while, "wise men from the East" would travel hundreds of miles to honor the newborn "King of the Jews." After this visit, Joseph was advised in a dream to head over to Egypt (likely Alexandria), to escape the wrath of the paranoid King Herod. After a while, the holy family would travel back to their home in Nazareth.

**God's people are always on the go.** And God is a great travel agent, directing our life in the ways that we should go. He does not through angels or dreams, but through his holy Word. Whether our lives are great or small, God offers directions and guides our paths into the way of peace.

**Where are we going?** Just as you are planning ahead for the year ahead, we as a church are looking forward to opportunities in our service to God and one another. Our Minnesota South District is planning a major gathering of up to 500 people at Concordia Academy in Roseville (April 19-20, 2024), called **"Go First!"**

**Go First is a gathering of Christians** who want to learn how they can sharpen their service to God in practical ways. It's not the expected gathering of pastors or teachers, but a convention where all can find (and give) Christian encouragement and inspiration in this two-day event. This is not a bunch of professionals coming together, but Minnesota church leaders who are sharing their ideas and plans with one another. In this way, the "best practices" that we see in some churches are being shared with others. We learn best, when we share ideas with one another.

We will hear more about this in coming months. This year is not just about "going," but going with God--and growing in favor with God and mankind.

In Jesus' name, Pastor Eric Zacharias

# Pastor's Report

# LADIES AID/LWML

**Zion Lutheran Women's Missionary League / Ladies Aid \* December 14, 2023**

**Eleven were present at our December meeting.** Bev Eggers was our hostess. We enjoyed our treats and talked about holiday plans. Bev Rolf had a devotion titled "The Christmas Story with Carols". We read Bible verses and sang from selected carols. Pastor Zacharias led us in a Bible study from the Quarterly "Equipped" (page 18). We studied verses about Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna.

**The meeting was called to order by President Bev Eggers.** We recited the LWML Pledge and the Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by the group. Following the Treasurer's Report, a motion was M/S/C to accept it and file it for audit.

**Correspondence\*** Checks were received from Keith Lenzen (\$180) and Krista Radde (\$100). Bev Rolf offered to send them thank yous. A thank you was received from Lutheran Bible Translators. Requests for funding were received from Southern Valley Alliance and LCMS/Missions (Gary Thiese & family). Our December monthly project was The Dwelling Place. After further discussion, it was decided to give the remaining three groups on our list a gift of \$25 each: Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Dakota Boys Ranch and Lutheran Social Services. No monies were given to the Carver County Seminary Fund, as there are no students at the seminary from Carver County this year. We dedicated our mites with a prayer from page 11 of our booklet.

**Committee Reports\*** Zion's Christmas Potluck was a hit! We served 90 and collected \$170 to be divided between Able Light (formerly, Bethseda) and LCMS World Relief. Many thanks to Julienne Klaustermeier, Stephanie Morschen, and others who helped to display the sweaters and set up for the dinner on Saturday, Dec. 2. Gifts for the Shut-Ins were purchased with a Thrivent Card by Martha Molnau and Mary Zacharias. We signed cards and divided up the bags for delivery before Christmas. RoNaye Gnan will be getting gift cards for the staff and Mr. Marcsisak will distribute them. Christmas Cookie Sales went well. We plated 121 dozen cookies and sold \$712 on Dec. 10 (\$7/plate or 3/\$20). Plans were to offer the remaining 18 plates for sale the following Sunday. (It was noted that Natalie Koepp had some Christmas Decoration on display in the lobby and wanted proceeds to go to LWML. We have \$15 from that day that was added to our treasury.)

**New Business\*** The leaders of our group will meet on January 11 (9:30) to plan our groups 2024 LWML book. Juliene reports that everyone on the Communion committee is willing to serve in 2024. Jim & Jan Latzke will continue serving coffee, lemonade, and water for our Fellowship Hour through May, 2024. We are going to ask for volunteers to continue to bring cookies and serve the coffee as well. We admire and give thanks to the Latzke's for their faithful and loving service! Roxanne Pieper volunteered to write an article about our Annual Christmas Potluck, our theme--and all the fun we had--along with a picture of the Christmas Sweaters for the MNS District LWML E-News.

**Birthdays in December** are Barb Scholz and Mary Zacharias.

**There will be no regular meeting in January.** Next meeting will be February 8, at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias, Secretary.



# WHAT'S NEW AT ZION LUTHRAN SCHOOL

by Tom Marcsisak

## WHAT A YEAR...

### What happened TO 2023...???

My mother always said that the older you get, the faster time goes. As much as I dislike having to admit that my mother was right...I have to admit that my mother was right. What happened TO 2023? It seems like it just started last week. Our school year theme this year is "Connected." We are connected here at Zion to each other in many ways. We are all connected to God through faith in Christ Jesus. The school is connected to the church not only physically, but also spiritually and financially. Individuals are connected into families and those families are connected into extended families. Days are connected into weeks and weeks into months. Those months are connected into years. It is now time to take a look back at the events of 2023.

Once again the highlight of **JANUARY** was Lutheran Schools' week. Some of the activities this year included a presentation by Dazzling Dave the Yo-Yo Man; a trip to Grand Slam in Burnsville for an afternoon of bumper cars, Laser Tag, mini-golf, trampolines, etc. We took an On-line Mission Trip to India where we learned about their culture and the growing number of Christian believers in the area. The older students spent a morning packing food at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. The week was concluded with a continental breakfast and a family game in the gym.

**FEBRUARY** brought with it the end of the 7th and 8th grade basketball season, and the start of 5th and 6th grade games. Zion students also helped out at the Fish Fry on the 24th.

In **MARCH**, planning for the Silent Auction kicked into high gear. The Pancake Breakfast was again held. Special thanks to all those who helped out in the kitchen cooking and to those in the gym cleaning. The annual Butterbraid sale conducted by the student going to Washington, D.C. came to a close, and the Gertens Flower and Plant Sale began.

As "usual," **APRIL** was a busy month. This year, even more than "usual." Confirmation, Easter, the Spelling Bee, and Basic Skills Testing all occurred like they "usually" do. The upper grade students also presented their annual play. This year's play was "Wishful Thinking." If you have ever wished for something, and it came true just in a way a little differently than you had planned...then you get the idea. April also brought the conclusion of our year-long accreditation process. Zion was commended for things that we do well, and suggestions were made for things we could do differently.

This year **MAY** may have been just as busy as April. The 1st through 4th graders presented their play titled "The Phantom of the Music Room." The Auction was held once again with food trucks. Special thanks to the Pexa and Huinker families for the delicious food options after church and to Elephant Joe's for the coffee before church. The track meet was again held at Lutheran High in Mayer. Playday took place at St. John's in NYA (we got second place this year). Finally, six eighth graders were congratulated and sent on to High School following their graduation from Zion Lutheran School, and kindergarten and preschoolers "Moved Up" to the next grade in a very special ceremony witnessed by family and friends.

**JUNE, JULY and AUGUST** are "quiet" months in terms of volume, but not necessarily in terms of activity. Books are ordered, classrooms are cleaned, floors are waxed, and vacated positions need to be filled. This summer Mrs. Neils, our kindergarten/preschool teacher, was replaced by Mr. Dave Galchutt from Chaska. He brings with him many years of experience working with God's littlest learners. Classrooms were prepared for the arrival of students in September, and an open house was held to welcome back old students and to meet new students beginning in fall--rootbeer floats were served--there went the freshly waxed floors.



In **SEPTEMBER** the new school year began with the theme "Connected." Anne Traver replaced Catie Viengthong as administrative assistant. Zion participated in volleyball at the fifth and sixth grade level. Our team was mainly fourth graders, but they had a good time and showed great improvement as the season went on. The successful salt sale concluded. Special thanks to Terry Bruesehoff for the use of his warehouse and to Eric Sauter for hauling the salt here from Savage. Thank you also to the folks who helped sort and load salt into vehicles for delivery. Also in September one of our students was welcomed into God's family through Holy Baptism. Henry Johnson was baptized during Friday morning chapel. To God All Praise and Glory.

In **OCTOBER** plans were finalized for Trunk or Treat. Over 20 families graciously volunteered their trunks for the festivities--THANK YOU!. The students and their parents planning on Going to Washington, D.C. this coming summer sold concessions to raise money for the trip.

In **NOVEMBER** the Soup and Pie Supper were once again held. Zion students assisted by carrying trays, busing tables, and filling coffee pots and cups. The Craft, Plant and Bake Sale was also again held. Zion boys started practicing basketball in preparation for the coming season.

In **DECEMBER** we focused once again on Christmas. Christmas is that wondrous season when we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. This year the students presented "Manger Moments, "But Wait--There's Myrrh." reminding us that the true meaning of Christmas is so much MORE than tinsel and toys.

**GOD'S BLESSINGS to you all in 2024.**



## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

As in the past, Lutheran Schools' Week is held in January. This year it is from the 21st through the 26th. Everyone is invited to join us for a continental breakfast on Friday, January 26th. Serving will begin at 7:30 AM and go to 8:00 AM.

Chapel will follow at 8:10 AM with an exciting game of Bible Bingo following chapel. Come for as much as you have time for and help us celebrate this special week of the school year.

## FISH FRY

Save the Date! Our annual fish fry will be held on Friday, February 16th. We are asking members of the congregation to donate desserts. If you have any questions you can contact Marlin Melcher.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

If you are a secretary or treasurer of a Zion organization, you will need to provide an Annual Report to the office. Financial reports are needed from each treasurer. All reports should be submitted to the office by the 11th of January. Thank you in advance for your help.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who so thoughtfully remembered us this Christmas season. Your generous gifts and heartfelt good wishes are greatly appreciated.  
-- The Staff of Zion Lutheran Church and School

## FINANCES

### Salary:

Beginning Balance (1/1/2023)	\$33,877.65
YTD Income	\$490,745.52
YTD Expenses	\$466,254.69
<b>Current Balance (12/31/23)</b>	<b>\$58,368.48</b>

### Missions:

YTD Total (9/30/23)	\$4,455.00
Budgeted	\$9,830.00
Non-budgeted	\$0.00
2023 Pledge	\$6,500.00
2023 Goal	\$15,000.00

### LHS:

YTD Total (9/30/2023)	\$18,782.66
2023 Commitment	\$19,250.00
Per communicant member	\$55.00

### Building/Repair Fund:

Account Balance (1/3/24)	\$13,187.05
Suggested household contribution	\$750.00

**Thanksgiving Offering To Date:** \$31,421.00

## USHER SCHEDULE

<b>January 7th</b>	Kaydra Boelke Berlinn Koepp
<b>January 14th</b>	Ava Dose Sam Dose
<b>January 21st</b>	Brooke Moen Abby Moen
<b>January 28th</b>	Anna Brueggemeier Sam Klaustermeier

## FROM THE OFFICE

### Office Hours:

**MTWF 8:00AM - 12:00PM & TH 8:00AM - 3:00PM**

Please have bulletin items to the office by 11:00AM on Wednesdays and newsletter items to the office by 9:00AM the third Friday of the month.  
Thank you!



# Membership Notes

## BIRTHDAY LIST

- 1 Gary Bierstedt  
Lisa Brueggemeier  
Sophia Morschen
- 3 Beverly Ulrich
- 4 Vivian Buetow  
Robert Gennrich  
Mark Melcher
- 5 Ella Buetow
- 6 Carley Ulrich
- 7 Nathan Ketcher
- 8 Addison Dietzel  
Kendra Rhodes
- 9 Nissa Klaustermeier  
Marlin Melcher
- 11 Olivia Buetow
- 12 Janice Pechonick
- 14 Justin Brueggemeier  
Christina Vinkemeier  
Brenda Worm
- 16 Kevin Rolf
- 17 Bradley Bierstedt
- 18 Emma Buetow  
Jennifer Buetow
- 20 Dennis Vinkemeier  
Oliver Kelzer
- 21 Kevin Gennrich

- 22 Sydney Haller
- 23 Edwin Brueggemeier  
Wesley Nielsen
- 25 Eben Karnitz  
Thad Karnitz
- 26 Karen Brockoff  
Jane Ische  
Whitney Olson
- 28 Christopher Buetow  
Charles Dietzel, Sr.  
Barbara Henschen  
Wesley Rolf
- 29 RoNaye Gnan  
Jeffrey Rolf  
Lori Bernard
- 30 Joycelyn Rolf  
Emily Salonek  
Adelaide Morschen
- 31 Rodney Boelke  
Sydney Bruesehoff

## VISITATION LIST

**Belle Plaine**  
Marjorie Wolter

**Minneapolis**  
Joycelyn Rolf

**Cologne**  
Dixie Brueggemeier

**Glencoe**  
Marlys Lenzen

**Norwood Young America**  
Ellen Arndt  
Lila Rolf  
Barb Scholz  
Marville Schmidt

**Waconia**  
JoAnn Herrmann  
Ella Molnau

**Maple Plain**  
Harriet Tellers

## REMEMBERING OUR SOLDIERS

John Michael Bones  
Eben Karnitz  
Eddie Karnitz

## Baptism

Vincent Carter Molnau

born 11/14/2023  
batized 12/10/2023

Parents:  
Von & Shamariyah (Miller)  
Molnau

Sponsors:  
Oksana Molnau  
Chad Jamal Miller

## 2024 JANUARY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
	NO SCHOOL	Dartball 8 PM at Waconia		Chapel at The Harbor 10:00 AM	Chapel 8:10 AM	
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
Church Service 9:30 AM		Dartball 8 PM v. Hamburg  Basketball at Waconia 3:45 PM			Chapel 8:10 AM	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Church Service Communion 9:30 AM  School Board Meeting Following Service	NO SCHOOL  Council Meeting 7:30 PM	Basketball at Cologne Academy 3:45 PM		Basketball at Mayer 3:45 PM	Chapel 8:10 AM	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Church Service 9:30 AM  Voter's Meeting Following Service		Dartball 8 PM v. New Germany  Basketball at NYA 3:45 PM			Chapel 8:10 AM	
Lutheran Schools Week						
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
Church Service Communion 9:30 AM		Dartball 8 PM at Mayer  Basketball at Cologne Academy 3:45 PM				



## Zion Lutheran Church

14745 Co. Rd. 153  
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*Return Service Requested*



## Share the good news about Zion!

Zion Lutheran School's Mission Statement reads: "Feed My Lambs...through the teaching of Christian faith and guidance in the Christian life." Here at Zion, we do not just train children academically. With God's Word as our guide, we also focus on their spiritual development as well-- equipping them to live their lives in a way pleasing to God.

SO...

If you have a three or four-year-old who is ready to take that big step into preschool... Check us out!

If you have a student ready to take that next big step into Kindergarten... Check us out!

If your child is attending school somewhere else and you're wondering if there may be a better fit... Check us out!

If you know someone who may fall into any of these above categories, encourage them to... Check us out!

**YOUR RECOMMENDATION MEANS A LOT!**